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REMARKS

Claims 1 through 4 and 6 through 13 are pending in the application.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that the claimed invention is allowable in light of the art of record.

Claim 1 has been amended to reflect that decorative sheets or moldings in accordance with the invention advantageously include heat-curing resins, as suggested by the Examiner. Support for this amendment can be found in the Application-as-filed.

Claim 6 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Claim 7 has been amended to replace the acronym "HPL" with the term "high-pressure laminate." Support for this amendment can be found in the Application-as-filed, for example on Page 2, lines 2 through 4.

The specification has been amended at Page 5, line 14 to correct a typographical error, as recommended by the Examiner.

The specification has been amended at Page 5, line 18 to clarify that the term "HPL" refers to "high-pressure laminate." As noted above, support for this amendment can be found in the Application-as-filed, for example on Page 2, lines 2 through 4.

Reexamination and reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of all objections and rejections, and formal notification of the allowability of the pending claims are earnestly solicited in light of the remarks which follow.

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Objection to the Specification

The specification stands objected to at Page 5, line 14 due to the term "pearlite." The specification has been amended to correct the noted typographical error and replace the term "pearlite" with the term "perlite," as suggested by the Examiner.

The specification also stands objected to at Page 5, line 18 due to the term "HPL." The specification has been amended to more clearly indicate that the acronym "HPL" refers to "high-pressure laminate," as suggested by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these objections.

Claim Objection

Claim 7 stands objected to over the acronym "HPL." Claim 7 has been amended to replace the acronym "HPL" with the term "high-pressure laminate," as suggested by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Section 112 Amendment

Claims 1 through 4 and 6 through 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 112. The Examiner urges that the specification is enabling for heat-curing resin as a binder in the claimed products, but does not reasonably provide enablement for all resins. Solely to advance prosecution of the case and without addressing the merits of the rejection, the term "heat-curing" has been added before the term "resin," as suggested by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

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Art of Interest

The Office Action cites United States Patent Nos. 4,503,115 (US 115) and 6,387,489 (US 489) as art of interest. Out of an abundance of caution, Applicants take this opportunity to respectfully concur with the Examiner's opinion that the claimed invention is patentable in light of US 115 and US 489 for the reasons of record.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that Applicants have made a significant and important contribution to the art, which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the art. It is believed that all of pending Claims 1 through 4 and 6 through 13 are now in condition for immediate allowance. It is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned if any questions remain to expedite examination of this application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time and/or fees are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2193.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at facsimile number (703) 872-9306 on December 3, 2004. *Claire Wygand*

Claire Wygand